



Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas

Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr. • United States Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOHN YEMBRICK

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(713) 567-9388

HOUSTON POLICE OFFICER AND PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANY INDICTED
FOR CONSPIRACY TO HIRE AND ARM ILLEGAL ALIENS

HOUSTON, TX - A federal indictment was unsealed today charging Bayou City Patrol Division (BCPD), a Houston private security company, and its owners David Rodriguez, 38, a Houston Police Department (HPD) officer, and Manuel Rodriguez, 65, both of Houston, for conspiring to hire and arm illegal aliens, for falsifying forms during the purchase of firearms, and for engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without a license, announced United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle.

David Rodriguez and Manuel Rodriguez are the owners and operators of a private security company that provides armed security guard services to Houston area night clubs, apartment buildings and private businesses. David Rodriguez is a 13-year HPD veteran who in late October 2003 was temporarily relieved of duty and subsequently placed on administrative status. Manuel Rodriguez is a retired U.S. Postal Service employee who is BCPD's registered owner.

The indictment was returned under seal on Wednesday June 14, 2006, by a Houston federal grand jury and was unsealed today following the arrest of both David and Manuel Rodriguez. David Rodriguez was arrested by HPD officers assigned to the Internal Affairs Division, while Manuel Rodriguez was arrested by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Department of Public Safety - Private Security Bureau (PSB). All charged are scheduled to appear today at 2:00 pm before U.S. Magistrate Judge Calvin Botley

The indictment accuses BCPD, David Rodriguez and Manuel Rodriguez with conspiring to violate the Gun Control Act by lying on numerous federal forms during the purchase of firearms, and by transferring those firearms without the proper license to illegal aliens who were hired to act as armed security guards. The indictment alleges that between December 2000 and December 2005, David Rodriguez and Manuel Rodriguez routinely hired persons who illegally entered the United States and fraudulently acquired security guard commissions from the State of

Texas PSB, often using false social security numbers and other false data. The armed security guards, many of whom could not speak English, were assigned to posts all around Houston where HPD often responded to investigate assaults, narcotics trafficking/possession, domestic violence and child slavery/prostitution.

The indictment is the result of the joint efforts of investigators of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Department of Public Safety - Private Security Bureau, the Social Security Administration – Office of Inspector General, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Abe Martinez.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. Defendant are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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